

Ser. No. 09/681,268
Art Unit: 2662

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REMARKS

Under 35 USC § 103(a), claim was rejected as unpatentable over Merchant (US Pat. No. 6,546,010) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (paragraph 0004 of the specification).

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Claims 2-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 13-20 were allowed.

- 10 The limitations of base claim 1 have been incorporated into allowable claim 2. Claim 1 has been canceled.

- 15 In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 2-20, as amended, are in a position for allowance. This application was filed with formal drawings. Applicant believes that a full and complete response to the office action has been made. Reconsideration and re-examination is respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

- 20 If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (831) 476-5506.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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